

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2736

TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2021

DRUGS AND OBSCENITY ON OTT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

2736. SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHLIKAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the news reports indicating that 'Central Board of Film Certification' has allegedly said that it cannot stop drugs and obscenity on Over The Top and social media, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the tendency of drugs and crime is increasing among the youth, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

- a) to c):- Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) pre-certifies films meant for public exhibition under the provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952. In order to put in place an institutional mechanism for publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms), Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000. Part-III of the Rules, inter-alia, provide for Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms). The Code of Ethics for OTT platforms specifies general principles to be followed by the platforms for carriage of content, classification of content into five age based categories, display of such classification, and restricting access to children of higher rated content. Schedule to the Rules lays down guiding principles for content classification and takes into account factors like portrayal of misuse of psychotropic substances, imitable behavior, language, nudity, sex, violence etc.**
